Claims

1. Use of *lactobacilli* in the preparation of an enteral nutritional composition for facilitating or improving the absorption of minerals by a mammal.

2. Use according to claim 1 in which the *lactobacilli* is a *Lactobacillus* bacteria which is capable of adhering to intestinal cells.

3. Use according to Claim 2 in which the *lactobacilli* is the *Lactobacillus johnsonii* CNCM I-1225 strain.

4. Use according to Claim 1 in which the enteral nutritional composition contains 10^7 to 10^{11} cfu of *lactobacilli*.

5. Use according to Claim 1 in which the enteral nutritional composition facilitates the absorption of calcium, magnesium, iron and/or zinc.

6. Use according to Claim 1 in which the enteral nutritional composition contains milk proteins.

7. Use according to Claim 6 in which the enteral nutritional composition is an infant formula comprising hypo-allergenic milk protein hydrolysates.

8. Use according to Claim 1 in which the enteral nutritional composition further comprises prebiotic fibres.

9. Use of *lactobacilli* in the preparation of an enteral nutritional composition for the treatment or prophylaxis of mineral deficiencies.

10. A method for increasing absorption of minerals from the diet, the method comprising enterally administering to a mammal a nutritional composition which contains *lactobacilli*.